

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1224
Middletown Methodist Church
20109 Freeland Road
Freeland, Baltimore County
1856
Private

A congregation that grew out of an early 19th century Methodist congregation constructed the Middletown Methodist Church in 1856. The building is representative of many small churches built in rural towns throughout Baltimore County in the mid-1800s. By 1850, Middletown had already begun to thrive, for the mid-century county atlas indicates that the town included a tavern and schoolhouse in addition to several residences along Middletown Road between Freeland and Oakland Road. The 1850 county atlas confirms that no church had been constructed on the northeast corner of the intersection of Middletown and Freeland Roads by mid-century. The property was undeveloped, and a tavern was sited to the north of the extant church. By 1877, the church had been erected and Middletown had grown from a small crossroads community into a rural center. In the mid- to late 1900s, the Middletown Methodist Church experienced significant alterations to its exterior fabric. Whereas the building's initial construction exhibited Gothic Revival style influences, including the pointed arch doorway and bell tower, common to many rural churches throughout the county, the renovations that occurred in 1964 and 1992 effectively removed any traces of the structure's earlier character.

The three-bay-wide, four-bay deep wood frame church is one-story tall with vinyl siding, an asphalt-shingled front gable roof and concrete-parged solid stone foundation. An exterior end stretcher bond brick chimney rises along the rear elevation, which is marked by the presence of several one-story shed-roofed additions. Projecting from the façade, or southwest elevation, is a one-story gabled portico constructed in 1992 and features a stretcher bond brick foundation below four fluted vinyl columns supporting a vinyl-clad pediment pierced by one octagonal, fixed vinyl window opening. The central entry with a beaded-vertical-board door with a vinyl surround pierces a full-width addition below the portico, which extends over the addition and shelters the entry. The side elevations feature the original window openings, which contain multi-light Queen Anne style double-hung windows with vinyl surrounds.

Inventory No. BA-1224

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Middletown Methodist Church

other

2. Location

street and number 20109 Freeland Road not for publication

city, town Freeland - vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charity Holding Corporation

street and number 20809 Keeney Mill Road

telephone Not Available

city, town	Freeland	state	MD	zip code	21053
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 8418 folio 757

city, town	Towson	tax map	11	tax parcel	74	tax ID number	0620066176
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
___district	___public	___agriculture	___landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___commerce/trade	___recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	___ buildings
___structure	___both	___defense	<u>X</u> religion	___	___ sites
___site		___domestic	___social	___	___ structures
___object		___education	___transportation	___	___ objects
		___funerary	___work in progress	<u>1</u>	___ Total
		___government	___unknown		
		___health care	___vacant/not in use		
		___industry	___other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				1	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1224

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Originally constructed in 1856, the Middletown Methodist Church was later altered by complete remodeling of the structure's exterior. These 1964 alterations to the have resulted in a complete change in the building's exterior materials and Gothic Revival style detailing; it's overall form, however, appears to be intact. The three-bay-wide, four-bay deep wood frame church is one-story tall with vinyl siding, an asphalt-shingled front gable roof and concrete-parged solid stone foundation. An exterior end stretcher bond brick chimney rises along the rear elevation, which is marked by the presence of several one-story shed-roofed additions. Projecting from the façade, or southwest elevation, is a one-story gabled portico constructed in 1992 and features a stretcher bond brick foundation below four fluted vinyl columns supporting a vinyl-clad pediment pierced by one octagonal, fixed vinyl window opening. The central entry with a beaded-vertical-board door with a vinyl surround pierces a full-width addition below the portico, which extends over the addition and shelters the entry. The side elevations feature the original window openings, which contain multi-light Queen Anne style double-hung windows with vinyl surrounds.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1224

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1856-1964	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1856, 1964, 1992		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

A congregation that grew out of an early 19th century Methodist congregation constructed the Middletown Methodist Church in 1856.¹ The building is representative of many small churches built in rural towns throughout Baltimore County in the mid-1800s. By 1850, Middletown had already begun to thrive, for the mid-century county atlas indicates that the town included a tavern and schoolhouse in addition to several residences along Middletown Road between Freeland and Oakland Road. The 1850 county atlas confirms that no church had been constructed on the northeast corner of the intersection of Middletown and Freeland Roads by mid-century.² The property was undeveloped, and a tavern was sited to the north of the extant church. By 1877, the church had been erected and Middletown had grown from a small crossroads community into a rural center. At that time, the town included a physician's office, school house, Odd Fellows hall, a store and one "shop."³ Although the community's 1881 population of only forty-nine inhabitants did not appear significant, the town was nevertheless in a strategic location between two crossroads along Middletown Road.⁴ Growth in and around Middletown slowed down in the early 20th century.⁵ In the mid- to late 1900s, the Middletown Methodist Church experienced significant alterations to its exterior fabric. Whereas the building's initial construction exhibited Gothic Revival style influences, including the pointed arch doorway and bell tower, common to many rural churches throughout the county, the renovations that occurred in 1964 and 1992 effectively removed any traces of the structure's earlier character.⁶

¹ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

² J. C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

³ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

⁴ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 870.

⁵ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

⁶ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1224

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name New Freedom

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1856, the Middletown Methodist Church has been associated with the .288 acres known as tax parcel 74 of map 11 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

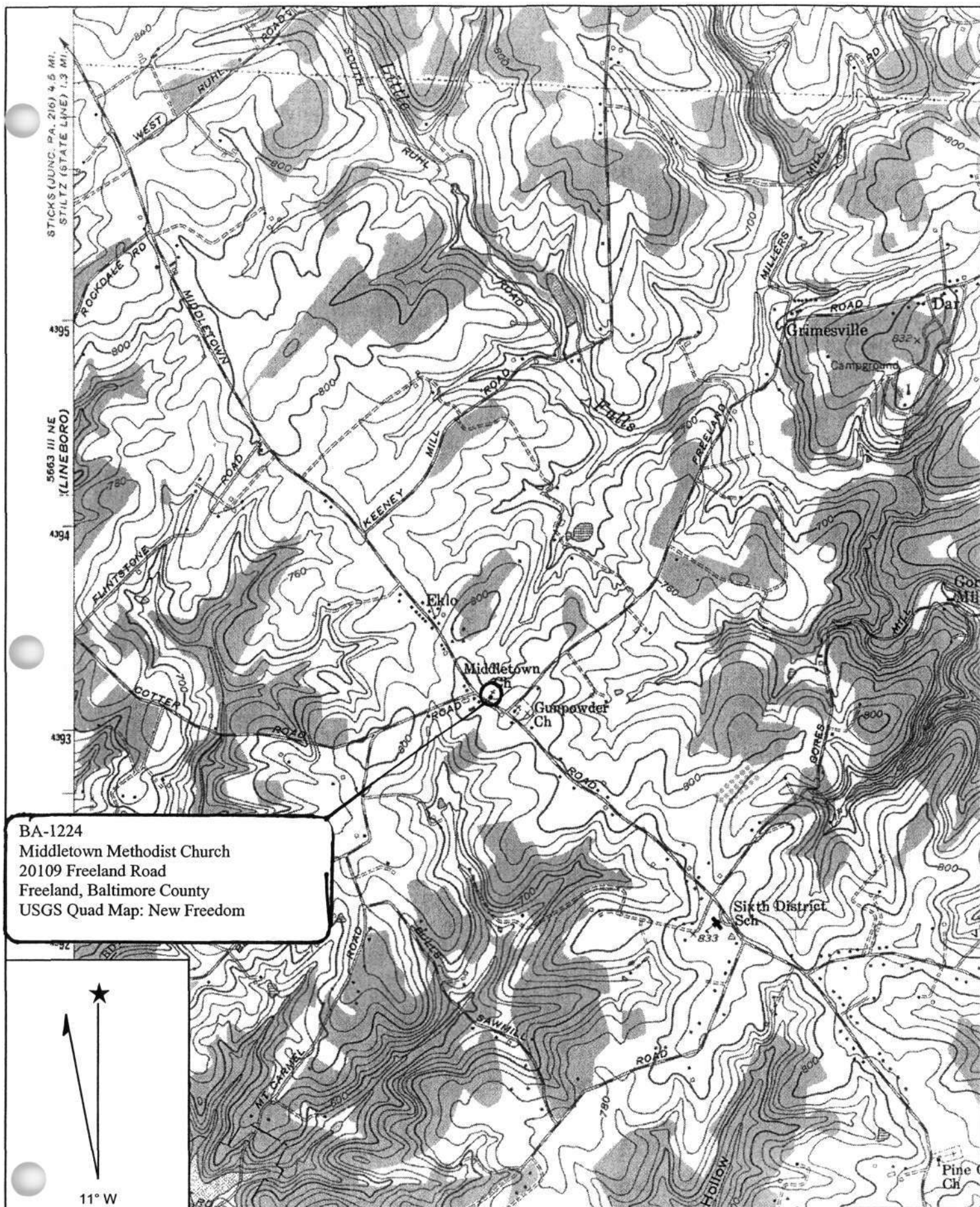
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 7, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600





BA-1224

20109 Freeland Road

MIDDLETOWN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

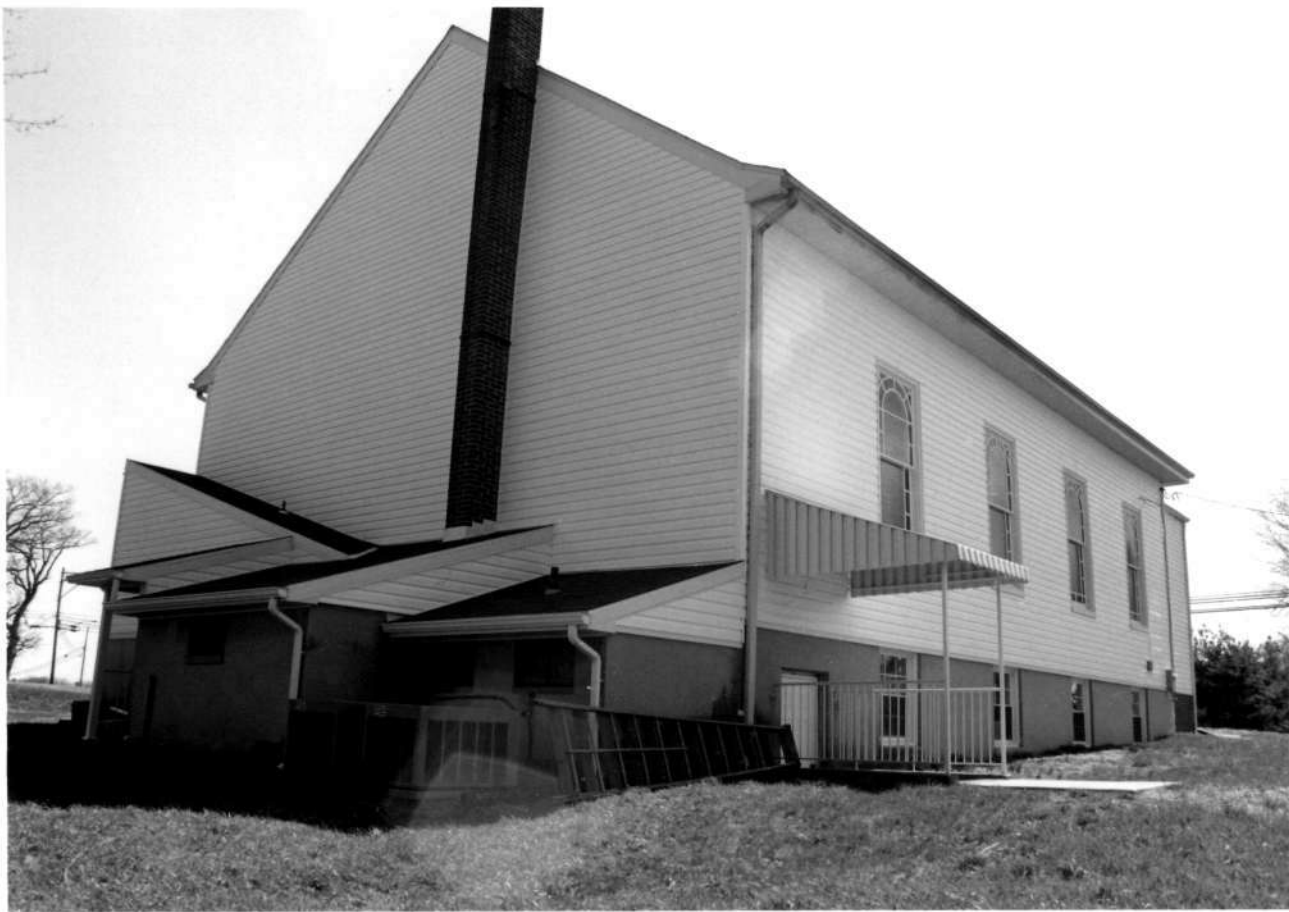
TRAILERES

H/2001

MD-SHP0

S CORNER

1 of 2



BA-1224
20109 Freeland Road
MIDDLETOWN
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERES

4/2001
MD-STPD
N CORNER

2 of 2

BA-1224

MIDDLETOWN METHODIST CHURCH - 1856 - NE corner of Middletown and (New) Freeland Roads....(20109 Freeland Road). Congregation is an outgrowth of meeting held at Tipton's Meeting House in early 1800s. Cornerstone reads, "Built-1856/Remodeled-1964." Frame, clapboard-covered church in Victorian style. Gable roof covered with roofing material. Four bays deep. Square central entrance tower terminates in a belfry with a flat top. Gothic arch over main doors; side windows are rectangular, clear panes with colored glass borders. Building set on concrete foundation. Cemetery is east of Freeland Road near Gunpowder Baptist Church. Dedication ceremonies were announced for June 23 in B.C. Advocate, June 7, 1856, p.3.)

Daily Records , August 23, 1989...

MASONS MAY CONVERT FREELAND CHURCH TO LODGE

The Methodists own it. The Lutherans conduct services in it. And the Masons want it.

But before the Masonic lodge members can purchase a church building in the Freeland section of northern Baltimore County, the property must be rezoned.

So the 185-member Charity Lodge 134 is asking the Baltimore County Board of Appeals to change the zoning category on the site. The reclassification request is the first to be considered by the three-member administrative panel since completion of the 1988 comprehensive maps review process.

The quadrennial procedure, which culminated in October with a vote by the County Council, determines the future of growth patterns for Baltimore County. Between the periods of remapping, the Board of Appeals may consider requests for a different zoning category from property owners.

However, the board can grant the reclassification only if an error has been made or if there has been a change in the character of the community.

Even if the rezoning request is granted by the appeal board, the upgrading is just the first of a two-step process the Masons must complete before moving in.

Only after a more intensive zoning classification is affixed to the 1.04-acre parcel, located on the northeast corner of the Freeland and Middletown roads' intersection, can the charitable organization file for special permission from the Baltimore County zoning commissioner to use the structure as a "community hall."

The prolonged effort is worth it, say lodge officials, because their current facility is located in a Parkton flood plain.

"We've got to get out and this property was available," said James Rolier, chairman of the Mason's building committee."

As proposed, the 180-seat church building, currently rented to Redeemer Lutheran Reform Church, will be converted into the lodge's main hall. A two-story future addition to the southeast side of the building will add another 4,200 square feet to the facility.

The Lutherans will move out when construction is completed on a church of their own.

But when the Masons appeared recently before the Board of Appeals, they asked for additional time to change the site plan and reconfigure the proposed addition. With the new plan, the Masonic officials say they will not need a setback variance.

Though relocating the addition did not materially alter the rezoning request, the Board of Appeals postponed the hearing on the petition. The new date for the board to hear testimony on the reclassification has been set for Oct. 26.